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Due Considerations: Essays and Criticism

By Updike, John.

Knopf. 1 Cloth(s), 2007. hard. Book Condition: New. This sixth collection of essays and literary criticism from the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner opens with a skeptical overview of literary biographies, proceeds to five essays on topics ranging from China and small change to faith and late works, and takes up under the heading "General Considerations" books, poker, cars, and the American libido. The last, informal section of Due Considerations assembles more or less autobiographical pieces, reminiscences, friendly forewords, comments on the author's own recent works, and responses to probing questions. In between, many books are considered, some in introduction to such classics as *Walden*, *The Portrait of a Lady*, and *The Mabinogion* and many more in reviews, usually for *The New Yorker*. Ralph Waldo Emerson and the five Biblical books of Moses come in for appraisal, along with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Contemporary American and English writers Colson Whitehead, E.L. Doctorow, Don DeLillo, Norman Rush, William Trevor, A.S. Byatt, Muriel Spark, Ian McEwan receive attentive and appreciative reviews, as do Rohinton Mistry, Salman Rushdie, Peter Carey, Margaret Atwood, Gabriel García Márquez, Haruki Murakami, Günter Grass, and Orhan Pamuk. In factual waters, Updike ponders the sinking of the *Lusitania* and the...



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